

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating functional somatic syndromes comprising the steps of:

determining whether a patient suffers from inspiratory airflow limitation during sleep;

identifying such a patient as having a functional somatic syndrome; and

treating such a patient with an upper airway stabilization technique;

wherein treating such a patient with an upper airway stabilization technique comprises stabilizing the airway with positive airway pressure therapy.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the positive airway pressure therapy is selected from the group consisting of: continuous positive airway pressure, bi-level positive airway pressure, and auto-titrating positive airway pressure.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein identifying a patient as having a functional somatic syndrome includes identifying a symptom of the functional somatic syndrome, wherein the symptom is selected from the group consisting of: chronic fatigue, irritable bowel, migraine headaches, tension headaches, temporomandibular joint pain, premenstrual pain, sleep-onset insomnia, sleep maintenance insomnia, unrefreshing sleep, EEG evidence of sleep fragmentation, bruxism, muscle pain, muscle tenderness, heartburn, abdominal pain, abdominal urgency, diarrhea, depression, orthostatic syncope, alpha-delta sleep.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 7~~ claim 1, further comprising the step of categorizing a patient who has an inspiratory airflow limitation during sleep of approximately fifty-one to one-hundred percent of waking levels as an upper airway resistance syndrome (UARS) patient.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 7~~ claim 1, further comprising the step of categorizing a patient who has an inspiratory airflow limitation during sleep of approximately zero to fifty percent of waking levels as an obstructive sleep apnea/hypopnea (OSA/H) patient.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising observing alpha-delta sleep of such a patient to diagnose the functional somatic syndrome.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the functional somatic syndrome is selected from the group consisting of: chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, irritable bowel syndrome, migraine headaches, tension headaches, temporomandibular joint syndrome, Gulf War syndrome, premenstrual syndrome, ~~sleep-onset insomnia, sleep-maintenance insomnia,~~ multiple chemical sensitivity, sick building syndrome, repetition stress injury, side effects of silicone breast implants, chronic whiplash, and restless leg/periodic limb movement syndrome.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of treating functional somatic syndromes comprising the steps of:

determining whether a patient suffers from inspiratory airflow limitation during sleep;

identifying such a patient as having one or more symptom of a functional somatic syndrome; and

treating such a patient with an upper airway stabilization technique;

wherein treating such a patient with an upper airway stabilization technique comprises stabilizing the airway with positive airway pressure therapy.

13-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 15~~ claim 12, wherein the positive airway pressure therapy is selected from the group consisting of: continuous positive airway pressure, bi-level positive airway pressure, and auto-titrating positive airway pressure.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the symptom of the functional somatic syndrome is selected from the group consisting of: chronic fatigue, irritable bowel, a migraine headache, a tension headache, temporomandibular joint pain, premenstrual pain, sleep-onset insomnia, sleep maintenance insomnia, unrefreshing sleep, EEG evidence of sleep fragmentation, bruxism, muscle pain, muscle tenderness, heartburn, abdominal pain, abdominal urgency, diarrhea, headaches, depression, orthostatic syncope, alpha-delta sleep.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 18~~ claim 12, further comprising the step of categorizing a patient who has an inspiratory airflow limitation of approximately fifty-one to one-hundred percent of waking levels as an upper airway resistance syndrome (UARS) patient.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 18~~ claim 12, further comprising the step of categorizing a patient who has an inspiratory airflow limitation of approximately zero to fifty percent of waking levels as an obstructive sleep apnea/hypopnea (OSA/H) patient.

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21-28. (Cancelled)